

Add new claims as follows:

39. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 17, wherein the deformation regions are statistically distributed over the knit.

cf 40. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 17, wherein adjacent deformation regions are irregularly spaced apart.

41. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 22, wherein the deformation regions are statistically distributed over the knit.

42. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 22, wherein adjacent deformation regions are irregularly spaced apart.

REMARKS

The above amendments are presented in order to broaden the independent claims 17 and 22 as presented in the reply filed on April 2, 2001 and to add additional dependent claims to the application.

The remarks presented below in support of the amended claims 17 and 22 supersede the remarks in support of claims 17 and 22 as presented in the reply filed on April 2, 2001. All other remarks included in the reply filed on April 2, 2001 remain valid in consideration of the amendments presented herein.

With regard to the amended claim 17, a knit is shaped by distributing deformation regions over the knit. The deformation regions are discrete elements and not extended deformation boundaries or lines as in GB '998 and thus the degree of shaping of any area of the knit is not controlled by the size or extent of deformation boundaries or lines as in GB '998 but by the density of the discrete deformation regions in that area of the knit.

Referring to claim 22, when loops are narrowed, one transfers loops from an outer region of the needle bed towards the center thereof. At the boundary between the regions where loops are transferred and not transferred either a wale is terminated or two adjacent wales are hung together. When widening loops, one provides new wales by hanging old loops at least on one side of the new wale to the outside of the needle bed. FIG. 1 of GB '998 shows clearly that no loops are transferred either towards the center of the needle bed or towards the outside of the needle bed. In GB '998 size reduction is obtained by the inactivation of single needles. Thus, GB '998 does not disclose or suggest the idea of forming discrete deformation regions with widening or narrowing loops or that the density of the discrete deformation regions in any particular area of the knit determines the degree of shaping of the knit in that area.

It is therefore submitted that amended claims 17 and 22 are patentable and it follows that the dependent claims 18-21, 39-40 and 23-28, 41-42 also are patentable.

Please charge the fee of \$72 for the additional claims under 37 CFR 1.16(c) to Deposit Account No. 19-2560.

Respectfully submitted,



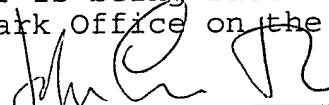
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